

State, I am grateful to Sue and your family, including your 4 children and 14 grandchildren, for their great support over these years. I wish you a very happy retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY TORRES

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments of Mr. Johnny Torres, who has been an exemplary business leader for decades and has promoted Latino businesses in pioneering and innovative ways.

Born in Mayaguez, PR, to Mr. Senen Torres and Mrs. Rosa Rodríguez, Mr. Johnny Torres has been married to his wife Gloria for 57 years and is the proud father of Manuel, Richard, and Diana. After graduating from high school, he completed his B.A. in interior design at New York University and has been a resident of New Jersey for the last 47 years. In 1960, Mr. Torres took over the management and operation of a bodega that he and his brother purchased. As a bodeguero, he realized there was an urgent need to create an organization representing Spanish-speaking merchants to advocate on their behalf. Inspired by this experience, Mr. Torres founded the Metropolitan Spanish Merchants Association, also known as La Metro.

As the association grew, it increased its activities to effectively channel Hispanic food retailers' purchasing power. Mr. Torres organized, developed, and promoted the Cash & Carry Cooperative concept among the grocers and planned the growth and future of the cooperative, with sales reaching over \$56,000,000 in 1986.

As Mr. Torres familiarized himself with the needs and challenges of the small business community, he was determined to take action on their behalf. He spearheaded the creation of a technical assistance unit in the areas of business management; "El Vocero Mercantil," a Spanish trade newspaper; Metro Merchants Federal Credit Union to provide financial assistance to small merchants; and Metro Superette, Inc., a network of small grocery stores working under the name of Metro Superette and enjoying the benefits of a big chain.

Mr. Torres' knowledge and experience as a retailer, wholesaler, and small business organizer in New York was recognized by merchants across the Nation, helping create similar organizations. For 8 years, Mr. Torres helped spread this knowledge as a lecturer on small business management and development at Hostos Community College in the South Bronx.

Mr. Torres retired from the food industry in 1989 after 29 years of service. He then created the Institute for Human Development in New Jersey. As president of the institute, Mr. Torres is dedicated to the creation of programs

for Spanish-speaking sales people, executives, small business groups, and other organizations. Thousands of men, women, and children have benefited from his conferences and seminars, which cover subjects such as stress management, human relations, self-improvement, small businesses, and family relations.

For the past 25 years, Johnny has served Save Latin America, Inc., where he has planned, implemented, and advocated for various programs and services.

As Mr. Torres nears retirement, I am glad to see that his visionary leadership, talent, and genuine commitment to helping others are being recognized. I proudly congratulate Johnny Torres on his well-earned Lifetime Achievement Award for his exemplary service to small businesses, the Latino community, the people of New Jersey.●

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY GREG COUNTRYMAN, JR.

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to honor Muscogee County Sheriff Deputy Greg Countryman, Jr., for his heroic and lifesaving service to the Chattahoochee River Valley.

On May 16, 2022, emergency personnel received a harrowing call about two children who were unconscious and not breathing after being pulled from a swimming pool. Already on the way home from his shift, Deputy Countryman quickly sprang into action and was the first to arrive on the scene. He swiftly administered CPR and successfully helped resuscitate the children until EMS arrived. Deputy Countryman's swift response saved their lives.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend Muscogee County Sheriff's Deputy Greg Countryman, Jr., for his heroism and service to the Chattahoochee River Valley community.●

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA GRUNER

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, today I rise to honor someone who is a cornerstone of the Dalton, GA, community.

America Gruner has been a leader in her community for over 30 years. She serves as the CEO of the Coalicion de Lideres Latinos, an advocacy organization she founded that works to advance human and civil rights for the Latino community. Over the last three decades, she has accrued skills in civic participation, mental health and crisis intervention, medical interpretation, nonprofit organization management, and voting mobilization to help advance the lives of the people of Dalton. She has also become a leading voice for Dalton's Latino community, using her work as an experienced journalist to uncover injustices and right those wrongs. My team and I have had the privilege of witnessing Mrs. Gruner's impact on the State of Georgia firsthand, and she is a beacon of hope and service in our communities.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend America Gruner for

her service and steadfast commitment to Dalton and the entire State of Georgia.●

TRIBUTE TO PATTI LYONS

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Patti Lyons for her 25 years of service to the coastal Georgia community.

Patti Lyons has dedicated her career to helping our seniors, oftentimes the most vulnerable among us. In 1997, Patti became the president of Senior Citizens, Inc., a nonprofit organization focused on ensuring older adults have the food, social programs, and community they need. I had the honor of delivering meals to seniors alongside Patti earlier this year. The smile Patti's warmth and joy brings to seniors' faces on their doorsteps was priceless, and it was obvious the amazing impact she has on people's lives every day.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend Patti Lyons for her 25 years of service to the coastal Georgia community as president of Seniors Citizens, Inc.●

TRIBUTE TO MARTY McLENDON

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marty McLendon for his dedication and unwavering commitment to Georgia's agricultural community.

Mr. McLendon has worked as a peanut farmer in Albany, GA, for the past 25 years, leading the Albany community in ensuring Georgia remains a top producer of quality peanuts. He continues this important work as a board member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Peanut Standards Board. Mr. McLendon also currently serves as district chairman of the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District and as a board member of Flint River Fresh, an Albany-based organization that helps low-income communities in Dougherty County and southwest Georgia access fresh fruits and vegetables. His work does not stop there. Mr. McLendon takes his commitment to public service to the next level by frequently opening his home to local events and gatherings, building community with his friends and neighbors.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend Marty McLendon for his valiant service to the southwest Georgia community.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARLOS DEL RIO

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Carlos del Rio, MD, for his outstanding service to the State of Georgia and the entire Nation for more than 25 years.

Dr. del Rio, a native of Mexico, is a distinguished and awarded professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at Emory University School of Medicine. He has been a leader in epidemiology and research on diseases affecting the immune system and issues